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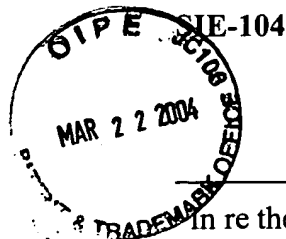
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MAR 25 2004

PATENT

TC 2600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re the Application of:

DIRKMANN ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/284,581

Filed: April 15, 1999

For: METHOD OF HANDLING
SERVICE CONNECTIONS IN A
COMMUNICATION NETWORK

* ATTN: BOX AF *
PLEASE EXPEDITE PROCEDURE

Art Unit: 2666

Examiner: I.P. Mehra

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION RECEIVED

Box: Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 24 2004

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 22, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6-18 in the above-identified application for the reasons as set forth below.

No extension of time or other fees are believed to be due, except as detailed in the attached documents. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-1390.